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Agencies Use Technology to Reduce State Cars In DMV Inspection Lanes

DOVER -- Tracking tools installed in state-owned cars and trucks will measure the vehicles' emissions and keep them out of inspection lines, the Delaware Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced today.

Delaware is the first state in the nation to be authorized for the electronic transmission of emissions data for its fleet vehicles. As a result, approximately 500 OMB Fleet Services' vehicles each year will now not be required to pass through the Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) lanes, saving both time and resources for DMV and Fleet Services. In addition, this initiative increases the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) ability to meet an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement for "road tests" to check emissions outside of inspection times.

The installation of the devices is the latest of the Markell Administration's efforts to make government more efficient. Using these devices, officials successfully completed the first round of the inspection process in early December with Fleet Services receiving 189 plate stickers and registration cards from DMV. Going forward, the devices will be installed in every new fleet vehicle the state purchases.

"We owe it to the taxpayers to look for every opportunity – large or small – to make government more effective and efficient. We needed to reduce the state fleet considerably – and we did. We need to work together to reduce costs, and we are," said OMB Director Ann Visalli, whose agency implemented the Governor's directive earlier this year to cut state's vehicle fleet by 20 percent. "Today we are making government more efficient in a way that could lead to shorter wait times at DMV inspection lanes. I want to thank DNREC and the DMV for working with the Office of Management and Budget to take advantage of this technology."

The tracking tools record the vehicles' emissions and report the data to DMV, which reviews the measurements to ensure the vehicles are meeting state and federal clean-air requirements.

"The DMV continues to explore every opportunity to gain efficiencies while focusing on delivering its core services," said DMV Director Jen Cohan. "This project represents a way for the division to reduce the number of vehicles that need to go through our inspection lanes and increase the level of service we can provide to our customers through shorter wait times for vehicle inspections."

This initiative will also contribute to reduced staffing needs and allow for the reassignment of employee resources and time to performing more core functions within both DMV and Fleet Services. The reduction in state assets going through the inspection lanes will ultimately provide the public with reduced wait times and faster service.

"This project was a great opportunity for Fleet Services to leverage our existing GPS technology and truly get the most out of our resources," said Dean Stotler, Director, OMB's Government Support Services. "In our discussions with DMV and DNREC, we discovered this data could not only help us pass emissions inspections but could also assist DNREC in monitoring air quality. It was a partnership that made sense."